

## Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 IGA-01 /063 W

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R 311802Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9985

CONFIDENTIAL BOGOTA 7197

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR EPAP CO

SUBJ: DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY AFTOSA PROJECT--COMPOSITION OF SENIOR REVIEW GROUP

FROM AMB

1. THE FOURTH MTG OF THE SENIOR REVIEW GROUP ON THE DARIEN GAP AFTOSA PROJECT IS SCHEDULED FOR EARLY SEPT. IN THE PAST, AFTER PRESENTATION OF TECH, ADMIN AND FINAN REPORTS, THE SENIOR REVIEW GROUP MEETS IN CLOSED SESSION TO REACH CONCLUSIONS. THIS CONSISTS OF ONLY THE USDA REP AND THE ICA HEAD ON THE COLOMBIAN SIDE, PLUS NOTE TAKERS. THEORETICALLY THE MEETING IS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE TECH MATTERS FACING THE PROJECT. PRACTICALLY HOWEVER, MATTERS ARE TAKEN UP WHICH HAVE MUCH WIDER POLICY IMPLICATIONS, AND THIS IS INCREASINGLY LIKELY TO BE THE CASE AS THE WHOLE HIGHWAY PROJECT GETS MORE COMPLICATED.

2. I HAVE FOUND IT--AND I AM SURE THIS IS TRUE OF THE DEPT--EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHAT IS TRANSPIRING, TO UNDERSTAND THE NUANCES OR TO ADEQUATELY MONITOR THE POLICY IMPLICATIONS, BECAUSE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SESSIONS IS NOT READILY AVAILABLE. MINUTES ARE NOT SATISFACTORY IN THIS REGARD SINCE THEY CANNOT CONVEY THE FLAVOR AND DETAILS, WHICH ARE IMPORTANT POLICYWISE. INDEED, THE MINUTES FROM THE LAST

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MTG LAST FEB ARE STILL NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO SOME DIS-

AGREEMENT BETWEEN COLOMBIAN AND US NOTE TAKERS AS  
TO WHAT THEY SHOULD SAY ON SEVERAL POINTS--  
ITSELF A MATTER OF SOME POLICY/PSYCHOLOGICAL  
CONCERN. ONLY NOW ARE THOSE MINUTES BEING CIRCULATED FOR  
CLEARANCE BY ICA, AND  
THEY MAY YET NOT BE SIGNED BY COLOMBIAN PARTICIPANTS.

3. AS WASHINGTON KNOWS, THE DARIEN GAP PROBLEM IS BECOMING  
A DIFFICULT ONE AND WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT, MAY HAVE  
TO COME TO A HEAD SOON. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THESE CON-  
SULTATIONS HAVE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT POLIT AND POLICY  
RAMIFICATIONS, TRANSCENDING THE TECH CONENT OF  
THE PROJECT ITSELF. I THEREFORE THINK IT ESSENTIAL THAT THERE  
BE INVOLVEMENT BY THE DEPT AND EMB IN THE PLANNING,  
CONCLUSION-DRAWING CLOSED SESSIONS. I  
CONSEQUENTLY ASK THAT STATE AND EMB REPS BE PRESENT  
IN THE CLOSED SESSIONS OF THE SRG HEREAFTER. VAKY

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 31 JUL 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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